

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* An audio output apparatus comprising:

a measuring unit that measures levels of a plurality of input sound signals;

a sound level adjusting unit that adjusts gains based on the levels measured by the measuring unit so that the sound signals have equal magnitudes;

an array speaker unit having a plurality of speaker units and a delay circuit for each of the adjusted sound signals; and

a directivity control circuit for controlling a delay setting for each of the delay circuits based on a desired focal position of a sound wave beam to be directed to and a position of each of the speaker units,

wherein each of the speaker units receives a set delay from one of the delay circuits to emit a plurality of sounds from the speaker units in accordance with the adjusted sound signals in different directivities, and

wherein each of the delay circuits controls the delay setting for each of the speaker units.

2. *(Previously Presented)* The audio output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the measuring unit separates the sound signals into a plurality of frequency bands to measure levels, and

the sound level adjusting unit assigns weights on the measured levels of the frequency bands with a predetermined weight for each of the frequency bands and adjusts the gains based on the weighted levels of the individual frequency bands so that the sound signals are in equal magnitudes.

3. *(Previously Presented)* The audio output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the measuring unit separates the sound signals into a plurality of frequency bands to measure levels, and

the sound level adjusting unit adjusts gains so that the sound signals are made to have equal magnitudes for each of the frequency bands based on the measured levels of the respective frequency bands.

4. (*Currently Amended*) An audio output apparatus comprising:

a measuring unit that measures levels of a plurality of input sound signals;
a sound level adjusting unit that adjusts gains based on the levels measured by the measuring unit so that a level difference between at least two sound signals specified by a viewer is made constant among the sound signals;
an array speaker unit having a plurality of speaker units and a delay circuit for each of the adjusted sound signals; and
a directivity control circuit for controlling a delay setting for each of the delay circuits based on a desired focal position of a sound wave beam to be directed to and a position of each of the speaker units,
wherein each of the speaker units receives a set delay from one of the delay circuits to emit a plurality of sounds from the speaker units in accordance with the adjusted sound signals in different directivities, and
wherein each of the delay circuits controls the delay setting for each of the speaker units.

5. (*Currently Amended*) An audio output apparatus comprising:

a measuring unit that measures levels of a plurality of input sound signals;
a compression unit that compresses a plurality of dynamic ranges of the sound signals to a predetermined value or below based on the levels measured by the measuring unit and outputs a plurality of sound signals after the dynamic ranges are compressed;
an array speaker unit having a plurality of speaker units and a delay circuit for each of the plurality of sound signals output from the compression unit; and
a directivity control circuit for controlling a delay setting for each of the delay circuits based on a desired focal position of a sound wave beam to be directed to and a position of each of the speaker units,
wherein each of the speaker units receives a set delay from one of the delay circuits to emit a plurality of sounds from the speaker units in accordance with the sound signals output from the compression unit in different directivities, and
wherein each of the delay circuits controls the delay setting for each of the speaker units.

6. (*Currently Amended*) An audio output apparatus comprising:

a frequency control unit that limits or emphasizes frequency bands of a plurality of input sound signals;

an array speaker unit having a plurality of speaker units and a delay circuit for each of the sound signals controlled by the frequency control unit; and

a directivity control circuit for controlling a delay setting for each of the delay circuits based on a desired focal position of a sound wave beam to be directed to and a position of each of the speaker units,

wherein each of the speaker units receives a set delay from one of the delay circuits to emit a plurality of sounds from the speaker units in accordance with the sound signals controlled by the frequency control unit in different directivities, and

wherein each of the delay circuits controls the delay setting for each of the speaker units.

7. (*Currently Amended*) An audio output apparatus comprising:

a measuring circuit that measures levels of a plurality of input sound signals;

a gain control circuit that refers the levels measured by the measuring circuit and sets a gain coefficient to each of the sound signals;

a sound level adjusting circuit that adjusts the levels of the sound signals based on the set gain coefficient;

an array speaker unit having a plurality of speaker units and a delay circuit for each of the adjusted sound signals; and

a directivity control circuit for controlling a delay setting for each of the delay circuits based on a desired focal position of a sound wave beam to be directed to and a position of each of the speaker units,

wherein each of the speaker units receives a set delay from one of the delay circuits to emit a plurality of sounds from the speaker units in accordance with the adjusted sound signals in different directivities, and

wherein each of the delay circuits controls the delay setting for each of the speaker units.

8. (*Previously Presented*) The audio output apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the gain control unit sets the gain coefficient so that the plurality of the levels of the input sound signals is nearly equal to each other.

9. (*Previously Presented*) The audio output apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the gain control unit includes an offset generating circuit that adds a certain amount of an offset amount to at least one level among the levels measured by the measuring circuit.

10. (*Previously Presented*) The audio output apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the gain control unit sets the gain coefficient so that dynamic ranges of the sound signals input to the array speaker unit are made to have a predetermined value or below.

11. (*Previously Presented*) The audio output apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a band pass filter to which the sound signals are input to limit a frequency band of the sound signals.

12. (*Previously Presented*) The audio output apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the sound signal limited in the frequency band by the band pass filter is output to the measuring circuit.

13. (*Previously Presented*) The audio output apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the sound signal limited in the frequency band by the band pass filter is output to the sound level adjusting circuit.

14. (*Canceled*)

15. (*New*) The audio output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the audio output apparatus simultaneously reproduces a plurality of contents each including at least one of the sound signals,

the measuring unit measures the levels of the plurality of the sound signals of the plurality of contents, and

the sound level adjusting unit adjusts the gains so that the sound signals of the plurality of contents have equal magnitudes.

16. (New) The audio output apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

the audio output apparatus simultaneously reproduces a plurality of contents each including at least one of the sound signals,

the measuring unit measures the levels of the plurality of the sound signals of the plurality of contents, and

the sound level adjusting unit adjusts the gains so that the level difference between the sound signals of the plurality of contents specified by a view is made constant among the sound signals.

17. (New) The audio output apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:

the audio output apparatus simultaneously reproduces a plurality of contents each including at least one of the sound signals, and

the measuring unit measures the levels of the plurality of the sound signals of the plurality of contents.

18. (New) The audio output apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

the audio output apparatus simultaneously reproduces a plurality of contents each including at least one of the sound signals, and

further including a measuring unit that measures the levels of the plurality of the sound signals of the plurality of contents.

19. (New) The audio output apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

the audio output apparatus simultaneously reproduces a plurality of contents each including at least one of the sound signals, and

the measuring unit measures the levels of the plurality of the sound signals of the plurality of contents.